His Majeſtie's GRACIOUS SPEECH TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

On *Wedneſday, November* 20. 1661.

Being the firſt day of their Meeting after the

ADJOURNMENT.

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His Majesties Gracious Speech to both Houses of Parliament on *Wednesday*, *November* 20. 1661. being the first day of their Meeting after the Adjournment.

My Lords and Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I Know the Visit I make you this day is not necessary, is not of course; yet if there were no more in it, it would not be strange that I come to see what you and I have so long desired to see, the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and the Commons of England met together, to Consult for the Peace and Safety of Church and State, by which Parliaments are restored to their Primitive Lustre and Integrity: I do heartily congratulate with you for this day. But, My Lords and Gentlemen, as My coming hither at this time is somewhat extraordinary; so, the truth is, the oc-

casion of My coming is more extraordinary; it is to say something to you on My own behalf, to ask somewhat of you for My Self, which is more then I have done of you, or of those who met here before you, since My coming into England: I needed not have done it then, and upon My Conscience I need not do it now; they did, and you do upon all occasions express so great an affection and care of all that concerns Me, that I may very well refer both the matter and manner of your doing any thing for Me, to your own Wisdoms and Kindness; And indeed, if I did think that what I am to say to you now, did alone, or did most concern My self; if the Uneasie condition I am in, if the Straits and Necessities I am to struggle With, did not manifestly relate to the Publick Peace and Safety, more then to My own particular, otherwise then as I am concerned in the Publick, I should not give you this trouble this day; I can bear My Necessities which meerly relate to My self, With Patience enough.

Mr. Speaker, and you Gentlemen of the House

of

of Commons, [illegible]
to make more haste in the setting [illegible]
stant Revenue of the Crown, then is agreea
able to the Method you propose to your
selves, to desire you seriously to consider the
insupportable Weight that lyes upon it, the
Obligations it lyeth under, to provide for
the Interest, Honour and Security of the
Nation, in another proportion, then in any
former times it hath been obliged to. I
know well you have very affectionately and
worthily taken all this into your thoughes,
and will proceed in it with as much Expe-
dition as I can reasonably wish; But I
come to put you in minde of the Crying
Debts which do every day call upon Me,
of some necessary Provisions, which are to
be made without delay for the very Safety
of the Kingdom, of the great sum of Money
that should be ready to discharge the seve-
ral Fleets when they come home, and for
the necessary preparations that are to be
made for the setting out new Fleets to Sea
against the Spring; that Revenue being
already anticipated upon as important ser-

vices,

vices, which should be assigned to those Preparations: These are the pressing Occasions which I am forced to recommend to you with all possible Earnestness, and do Conjure you to provide for as speedily as is possible, and in such a manner as may give Us security at Home, and some reputation Abroad. I make this Discourse to you with some Confidence, because I am very willing and desirous that you should throughly examine, whether these necessities I mention be Real or Imaginary, or whether they are fallen upon Us by My fault, My own ill Managery, or Excesses, and provide for them accordingly. I am very willing that you make a full Inspection into My Revenue, as well the Disbursements as Receipts; and if you finde it hath been ill managed by any corruption in the Officers I trust, or by My own Unthriftiness, I shall take the Information and Advice you shall give Me very kindly; I say, if you finde it: for, I would not have you believe any loose Discourses, how confidently soever urged, of giving away foure-

score

score thousand pounds in a Morning, and many other Extravagancies of that kind. I have much more reason to be sorry that I have not to reward those who have ever faithfully served the King My Father, and My Self, then ashamed of any Bounty I have exercised towards any man.

My Lords and Gentlemen, I am sorry to finde that the general Temper and Affections of the Nation are not so well composed, as I hoped they would have been, after so signal Blessings from God Almighty upon Us all, and after so great Indulgence and Condescensions from Me towards all Interests. There are many Wicked Instruments still as active as ever, Who labor night and day to disturb the Publick Peace, and to make all People jealous of each other; It will be worthy of your Care and Vigilance to provide proper Remedies for the Diseases of that kinde; and if you find new Diseases, you must study new Remedies. Let Us not be discouraged, if We help one another, We shall With Gods blessing master all Our difficulties: Those which concern

concern Matters of Religion, I confesse to you, are too hard for Me, and therefore I do commend them to your Care and Deliberation which can best provide for them. I shall not need to recommend, or put you in minde of the good correspondence that ought to be kept between you, for the good of your selves and Me, and the whole Kingdom; and I may tell you, It is very necessary for Us all: For Will finde, whosoever doth not love Me, doth not love you; and they who have no Reverence for me, shall little kindness for You. Therefore I pray let Us adhere fast to each other, and then We shall, with the help of God, in a short time, perswade, or oblige all men to that Submission and Obedience to the Law, as may constitute a full measure of happinesse to Prince and People, and perswade Our Neighbours to that esteem and value they have formerly had for Us.

FINIS.